Flashback

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society
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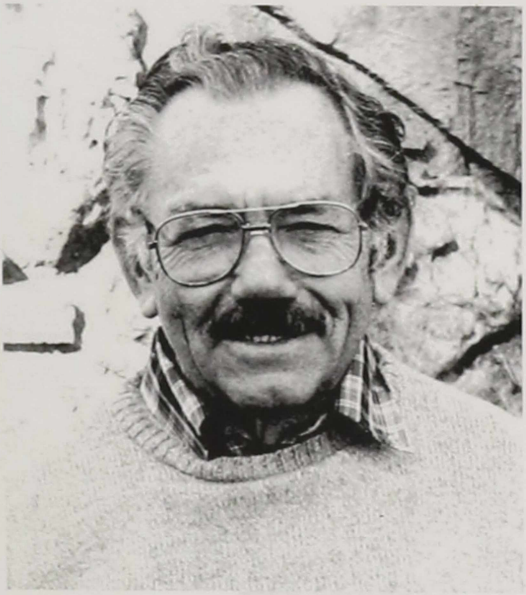
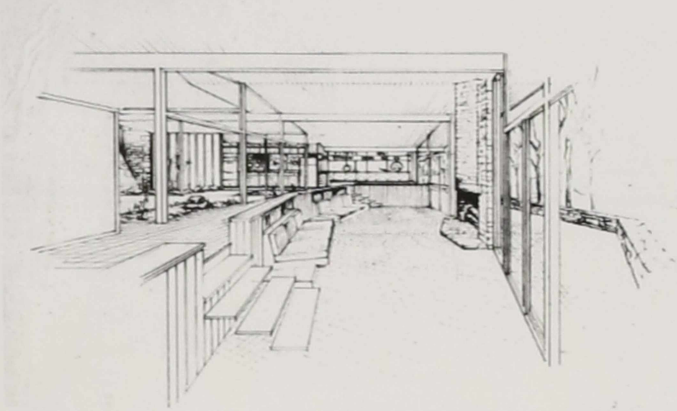
Spring 2023



Cy Sutherland
Educator
Professional
Preservationist



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Submissions

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Society membership is invited to those interested in the preservation of Washington County history. Annual dues (as of January 2020) for categories of members are: Senior, Student, Public Library, $20; General, $30; Trail Blazer, $50; Explorer $100; Wagon Master, $250; Pioneer, $500; Statesperson, $1,000.

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Preserving our past for future generations

Volume 73 Spring 2023 Number 1

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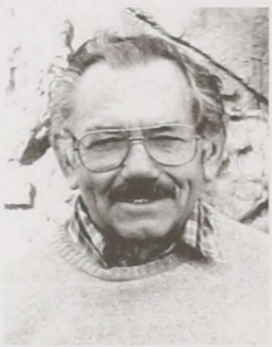

On the cover:
Cy Sutherland, known for his leadership as an architect deeply involved in the preservation of historic buildings. Photo courtesy of UofA Libraries Special Collections.

Also in this issue:
Left, Forrestina Bradley aka White River Red, is profiled by Denele Campbell.
Right, Arlene Kelly Stewart, who worked as a carhop at Jug Wheeler's Drive In, a fixture on Dickson Street for 17 years. Photo courtesy *NWA Times / NWA Democrat-Gazette* / Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

The "Otherness" of Forrestina Bradley Campbell aka White River Red

2022 winner of the Walter J. Lemke Prize in the WCHS 13th Annual Writing Competition

By Denele Campbell

As the legend goes, by 1931 when Forrestina Magdalene (Bradley) Campbell settled in Washington County, Arkansas, she had run away from her "well-to-do" family as a teen, joined the circus, married "Big Broad Tosser" Keyes, and lost a pregnancy after falling from a trapeze. Local historian Phillip Steele described her as "a beautiful woman…with long gorgeous red hair."

Beauty or not, her husband Keyes abandoned her when medical complications of her miscarriage cost her the ability to ever bear children. Maybe he would have left her anyway. No records of him have been found.[1]

This bold woman then hooked up with Andrew "Jack" Campbell, a young Fredonia, Kansas, farmer she met when her carnival tour performed there. The couple then traveled in a regional carnival circuit that included Washington County, Arkansas, ultimately bringing this flamboyant character to become known in local circles as White River Red.

The legend says she was born on a plantation to a well-to-do family. The reality was she was born April 5, 1891, in Webster Parish, Louisiana, to a farming family that moved from Hempstead County, Arkansas (1880), to Pinckard land near Bossier, Louisiana, then to Kansas City, Missouri (1900).[2] No plantation, not well-to-do. She was the second of

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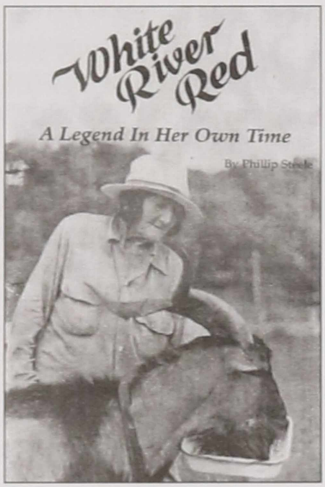
Denele Campbell's articles appear frequently in Flashback. *Her latest book,* The Music Men of Turn-of-the-Century Fayetteville *was published October 1, 2022. Campbell's books can be found online at https://www.amazon.com/Denele-Campbell/e/B000APWGC0. [Note: the "0"s are zeros, not capital "o"s.]*



Cover of Steele's booklet showing Forrestina in her later years, West Fork location. https://www.amazon.com/White-River-Red-Legend-Time/dp/B094G9C5PD

eight children of Marcus "Mark" Bradley and Fannie Pinckard Bradley. Her paternal grandfather, John Benjamin Bradley, was an educated man and taught school in Kansas City. In a long line of farmers from Nottinghamshire, England, the Bradleys arrived in the American colonies in the early 18th century. John was the first to step away from the fields, dust off his hands, and take up a white collar job through the benefits of education.

For about 10 years including the time of Forrestina's birth, the extended Bradley family lived in or near Fannie's mother's home in northwestern Louisiana. By 1898, they had returned to live at Hannibal, Missouri, where Forrestina's father Marcus "Mark" Bradley worked as a railroad clerk while raising his family. He advanced to a position of inspector for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and the secure income it provided for his growing family.

A year after her alleged departure from home at the age of 15, the 1907 *Hannibal City Directory* lists Forrestina living in the household with her parents Mark and Fannie, her brother Eugene, and younger children, both men working for Burlington Railroad. Forrestina was occupied as a worker at "Star." This could have been Star Shoe Store or, less likely, Star Annex Saloon, but chances are good it was Star Theater next door to the saloon, a glittery world just opened the previous year. Forrestina again appears in the 1909 *Hannibal City Directory*, still in the same household with her family and working at "Star." In 1909, she was 18.

What happened after that year remains a mystery. She is not found in the 1910, 1920, or 1930 federal census records. She possibly married Keyes by 1910, but with the last name's spelling uncertain and the absence of a first name for him, research about him goes nowhere.

The Star Theater occupied a propitious location in Hannibal, across the street from the Mark Twain Hotel and a block north of Union Station. Theater in those days involved vaudeville and condensed versions of circus acts. Acts from the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers Circus performed there during the time of Forrestina's employment, among many others. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Forrestina became enamored of a man, perhaps Keyes, who performed with a circus act at the Star Theater. She may have become pregnant by him and left home in shame. Or was turned out by indignant parents.

It is doubtful that Phillip Steele, in his 1979 booklet about her life, had any evidence other than Forrestina's stories for his claim that she was "featured for several years in elephant acts and trapeze and aerial shows.

Her long, gorgeous red hair and showmanship made her a star circus attraction." Rather, it seems this was the story that Forrestina wanted people to believe about her early life.

More layers of the legend peel away regarding her allegation that she became part of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Erin Foley, an archivist at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin, questioned that idea. Foley noted that women weren't allowed to travel with the Barnum & Bailey show unless they had a real job, which meant performing. The idea that Forrestina was accepted into a tight-knit operation like Barnum & Bailey without any previous training—either in handling elephants or especially in trapeze work—simply does not stack up.[3] However, there were many smaller and arguably more lax circus and carnival enterprises touring the heartland during those years. Forrestina could have joined one of those and later embellished her experience when speaking of her past.

Steele's biography stated that "The damage [from her trapeze accident] resulted in an operation which prevented her ever bearing children." Yet we know, in retrospect, that the likelihood of her performing on a trapeze is vanishingly small. It is worth consideration that the surgery after her "miscarriage" was in fact an effort to save her life after a botched back-alley abortion. At that time, birth control methods remained illegal, and sterility after abortion attempts was all too common.

While she may have followed the circus in the company of Keyes, the line between her alleged role in a circus and her later known career in one or more traveling carnival companies is hard to pin down. Perhaps she knew at an early age that she preferred the freedom enjoyed by males compared to the onerous stranglehold of traditional restrictions on females and seized her chance to join a group touring her workplace at Star Theater. Perhaps she already understood that she was somehow different and felt more at home among circus/carnival people who lived outside social norms. Perhaps her alleged Kansas marriage to burlesque show worker "Big Broad Tosser" Keyes resulted from a "love at first sight" attraction, although considering her subsequent abandonment by the man, that special attraction must have been hers alone. No such union has been found in Kansas marriage records.

The 15 years of Forrestina's life between 1910 and 1925 included a world war, passage of federal laws allowing women to vote and outlawing the production and sale of alcoholic beverages, and a huge cultural shift, especially for women. These were arguably years of her prime, from age 20 to 35, and not a trace of information about those years has been uncovered. Anyone who might have known is long gone.

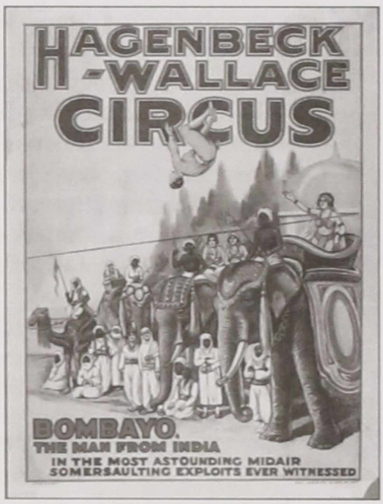
Andrew "Jack" W. Campbell was born at Blue Mound, Kansas, a wide spot in the road about 90 miles south-southwest of Kansas City. His father, Elmer L. Campbell, earned a living as a farmer, supporting his wife, Lucy J. Campbell, and at least four children. In 1925, the household had

moved 70 miles southwest of Blue Mound to a farm near Fredonia, Kansas, and included not only Elmer and Lucy but also Elmer's brother, his wife, and their two children in addition to 24-year-old Jack and his sister Mary. At that point, Jack was single.[4]

Between 1925 and 1930, Jack and Forrestina became a couple. By this point, Jack Campbell was 29 and Forrestina was 39. There is no census record found that fits these two in 1930.[5]

Jack must have been a charming cuss to convince the 10-years-older Forrestina to partner with him. She may have been tired of being alone. As for Jack, he may have been drawn to the allure of the carnival, touring place to place. He may have seen her as his ticket away from the hard labor and monotony of farm life. Most histories state they never married even though she ultimately took his name. According to the only near-contemporaneous account of her life collected by Phillip Steele four years after her death, Jack joined Forrestina when her carnival group set up near his home in Fredonia.

One record documents the arrival in Fredonia of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus on September 18, 1926. Three days later, they appeared in Rogers, Arkansas, and the next day Fayetteville. This could have been the tour that brought the couple to Washington County, but other possibilities are numerous.



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts / Billy Rose Theatre, Image ID: g98f981 Wikipedia

This poster for the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus circa 1907-1929 shows Indian acrobat Kannan Bombayo (1907-1939), nephew of Keeleri Kunhikannan, a martial arts trainer and gymnast and one of the earliest circus owners in India.

Carnival troupes, like circus troupes, overwintered in places that were affordable, offered space capable of hosting their extensive array of equipment, and were centrally located to their circuits. Steele's story of Forrestina and Jack asserts that their carnival troupe chose a place in northeast Washington County along the banks of the White River known as Head's Ford, a long-established crossing of the White River on the road between Springdale and Huntsville, now under the upper reaches of Beaver Lake. Located about nine miles east of Springdale, the site offered several natural amenities which made it a popular place. As noted by Earl Cates in an interview about his early years growing up near Sonora:

> There used to be a Head's Ford. It's down that road. A cave down there with a spring in it. That's where people would go on Sun-

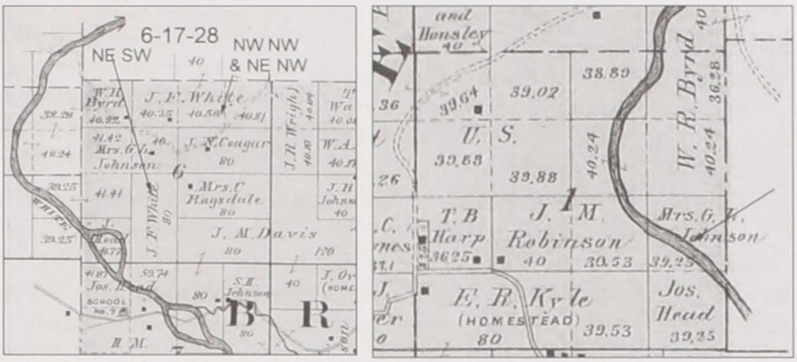
days to cool off 'cause there was no air-conditioning back then. There was a couple of good swimmin' holes down there, too.[6]

Boy Scout troops from Fayetteville and surrounds held regular summer campouts at Head's Ford, and sportsmen, picnickers, fishermen, and campers routinely visited that location. The Head family, for whom the ford was named, had settled there in 1855, making the journey from North Carolina by ox wagon. After 1908, the state built a bridge across White River at Head's Ford, and this was where Forrestina and Jack decided to set down roots.

County records bear out this part of her story. A deed dated August 31, 1931, shows A. J. and F. M. Campbell paid France and Anice Johnson $225 to purchase about 2.15 acres of land at Head's Ford, described as part of the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 1, Twp 17, R 29 West. The legal description was amended in 1933 and restated more concisely in 1946 as follows:

> Beginning at a point in the middle of the northerly end of the steel bridge across White River on the top of the stone bluff forming the bank of the river at this point, and running thence with the middle of the Springdale and Huntsville public road North 56° 30', East 144.5 feet; thence north 82° 30' East 190 feet to the place of beginning of the lands herein conveyed and running thence north 29° 30' west 223 feet; thence north 42° west 294 feet; thence east 40° north 111.5 feet; thence south 52° east 200 feet; thence south 32° East 492 feet; then in a southwesterly direction with the middle of said road 183 feet to the place of beginning, and containing 2.3 acres more or less.

The new Highway 412 bridge was built after the early 1960s formation of Beaver Lake expanded the river's boundaries and passes a short distance north of this earlier location.



Left: Arrows designate properties purchased primarily for firewood. From Washington County 1908 Plat Book, 6-17-28 Washington County Archives.
Right: Arrows point to site of their property. From Washington County 1908 Plat Book, 1-17-29 Washington County Archives.

The couple had big plans for this property. Within the next few years, they either built or repurposed buildings to contain a general store, gas station, and dance hall. It would serve their carnival group as a place to over-winter and secure income from locals and travelers alike.

In October 1933, Jack and Forrestina purchased land from Alice Threet and Alvis White, a 27.5 acre piece east of the river (NE SW 6-17-28) for which they paid $40 in 1933. The legal description stated so many rods from the south side of the NW quarter of the NE quarter as well as so many rods off the south end of the east half of the NE of the NW quarter.

In November 1933, the Campbells paid the Johnsons $350 for additional land in Section 6, described as the NE quarter of the SW quarter minus "any part thereof which a surveyor may show to be on the north and west side of Highway 68."[7]

On March 1, 1934, Jack and Forrestina sold the 27.5 acres to the Johnsons and on the same day paid $100 to the Johnsons for an amended deed on their first property, granting slightly more land. Later records show that these properties on the east side of the river were exploited for the dense woods to be cut and sold as firewood.

The dance hall was later described by local resident Bruce Vaughan:

> There was a pine wood dance floor about 24 feet square. It was strictly open air—just a wood floor sitting on some rocks to level it. That was before the area was electrified. I remember fiddle players and banjo pickers sitting in straight chairs, stomping their feet and playing lively music. There were lights—they must have been kerosene lanterns—hanging from poles on each corner of the dance floor.

It was said that the dance hall was a pretty rough place, and Jack Campbell was a pistol-wielding brute who was drunk more than he was sober. Steele's biography of Forrestina described the scenario:

> Moonshine whiskey, brawls, knife fights, and even a few shootings became as much a part of Saturday night dances as the Ozark fiddlers.
>
> Jack Campbell was said to have been a very pleasant person on the rare occasions he was not drinking. Most of the time, however, he was under the "influence" and a very mean, hot-headed man at such times. He carried two pistols most of the time beneath his overalls. One was a .44 and the other a .45. He was stoutly built and no one wanted to irritate such a man.

Locals probably weren't all that surprised when things boiled over and Jack Campbell ended up shot to death by Theo Johnson.[8]

A history of bad blood between Theo Johnson and Jack Campbell had been punctuated by Jack Campbell's regular beatings of Theo. Oblique references were made about Campbell's interest in Johnson's wife. Steele's account continued:

> One afternoon [February 3, 1935], Theo Johnson, Jack Camp-

> bell, and Marvin McClure, Cunningham and others spent the afternoon drinking homemade whiskey at John "Mack" McClure's farm on the White River. A heated argument developed between Johnson and Campbell. As the group left the house for the barn to help McClure with the milking, Campbell grabbed Johnson and began his usual beating. Johnson drew a pistol and fired three bullets into Campbell's chest…

The *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* article on February 4, 1935, stated that a first degree murder charge was filed against Theo Johnson for the shooting:

> Campbell died at 10:30 this morning at City Hospital where an operation was performed late yesterday in an effort to save his life. He was wounded in the abdomen, back, and both thighs. Sheriff Harley Gover arrested Johnson soon after the shooting… only three empty shells were found in the .38 Colt revolver…

Campbell was buried at Friendship Cemetery in east Springdale, "Andrew Campbell" engraved on his headstone.

The murder trial was postponed until November 1, 1935. Johnson's attorney John Nance filed for a continuance until April 1936. In court testimony, it was alleged that the confrontation between Johnson and Campbell revolved around 16-year-old Peggy McClure, who admitted she "kept company" with Jack Campbell, stating that "I had went places with him." She denied being pregnant with his child, but refused to answer the defense attorney's question whether she and Campbell were planning to be married, stating that "I think that should be my private affairs."

Walter Kirk, who lived with Jack and Forrestina and who was described in newspaper accounts as a "cripple with a speech impediment," testified that he had warned Johnson several days prior to the shooting to "quit bringing whiskey down there or there would be trouble." Kirk also said that Jack and Forrestina had been having problems in their relationship.[9] Kirk was a former carny associate of Forrestina who had become unable to work after losing a leg in an accident.

It would be April 1937 before the case against Theo Johnson was dismissed due to prosecutors' inability to bring Peggy McClure back to Arkansas to testify.

Following Jack's death, Forrestina abandoned any semblance of female appearance, beginning a habit of wearing loose men's clothing that would continue the rest of her life. She continued to work her carnival games while struggling to survive financially during the desperate years of the Great Depression. She hired carnival workers and transients to cut, split, and haul the wood harvested from her land on the east side of the river and became known as one of the biggest firewood purveyors in the Ozarks. She paid for their labor with clothing, food, and a place to sleep.

The 1940 federal census finds Forrestina residing with 69-year-old Agnes Sanders at the Sanders property at 707 East Emma, Springdale.

Forestina was 58, working as a truck driver for "wholesale and retail produce." That location at the time was across the street from Jones Truck Lines.

This building at 707 East Emma, Springdale, remains standing, converted to commercial use.

In addition to income from her truck driving job and the sale of firewood, she sold Christmas trees, fence posts, and strawberries and even hauled hay, advertising her wares in the *Springdale News*. According to Steele's account, she leased land near Green Forest in nearby Carroll County to gather naturally-occurring crystal specimens which she then sold. Crystal Mountain, about three miles south of Eureka Springs, is known for quartz crystal deposits in an area of about three acres and down to 30 feet, with specimens ranging in size from 1/16 inch to about two inches, in color from clear to shades of yellow, pink, blue, and lavender.[10] Some cubes of galena lead are also found in the county.

In 1941, she placed a Shetland pony and buggy on the market. Other want-ad listings included cedar posts and other types of wood but sometimes included other items.

- 1944: a 1936 1.5 ton Chevrolet truck and 'gentle mule,' rhubarb and youngberries
- 1945: pair of love birds, loading wagon

Forrestina negotiated no less than 45 land purchases (as "Forrestinea" Campbell) and five more as F. M Campbell. Records show 28 records of real estate sales, some of which are mortgages. Between the day after Jack's death and the end of 1942, she negotiated six mortgages, encumbering not only the original parcel where the gas station operated, for $207, but the land on the east side of the river for $135. She secured two mortgages on Springdale town lots south of Emma and east of Park Avenue for a total of $500. The last two mortgages, taken in 1942, brought $600 in debt to an unspecified lumber company and $400 loaned from First National Bank.

In 1932, under her own signature, she paid $40 for 8.3 acres east of the river. She paid $25 in 1933 for another five acres in that area. The same year she bought an additional five acres nearby for $30. In May 1935, she paid $500 for Lot 4 in Block A of Springdale's Mountain View Addition. In 1936, she paid $200 for more land east of the river, all properties in this particular location valuable to her for the dense hardwood forest suitable for cutting and selling as firewood.

In 1937, Forrestina purchased Springdale town lots 3 and 5 in Block A for $42.25, paid to the state land commissioner for delinquent tax-

es. That same year she paid back taxes of $16.86 for 80 acres east of the river that had been seized by the state for back taxes.

In 1938, she bought 20 acres south of Sonora for $600, $1,500 for a parcel in or near the Mountain View Addition in southeast Springdale, and $800 for four acres, all three purchases from Agnes Ware Sanders. The last deed reflected the relationship between the two women at the time when Forrestina had begun to reside in that home on Emma Avenue.

Forrestina holding a dog, July 1944. Photograph courtesy of Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (S-2009-68-4).

> The grantor [Sanders] reserves the full right of control and management and all rents and profits from said property during her natural life time, title in fee simple to pass to the grantee [Forrestina] at the death of the grantor. However, should the grantee die prior to the death of the grantor, then title is to revert back to the grantor. As a further consideration, the grantee is to keep said property in repair and pay all taxes on same as such taxes become due. Also at the passing of title to said lands to the said grantee, the grantee is also to take title in fee simple, or total title to the household goods owned by the this grantor at such time, and as further consideration is to continue to assist the grantor in such little kindnesses and other assistance as heretofore, which is acknowledged by this grantor...[11]

In 1940, Forrestina's land acquisition continued in east Springdale, with the purchase for an unspecified amount of land adjacent to the railroad tracks near Turner Street and Robinson Avenue from W. R. Adams. Like her deal with Agnes Sanders, Forrestina agreed to terms that gave Adams full right of occupancy and control of the property for the rest of his natural lifetime. Also in 1940, she paid $60 to T. J. Plummer for his Lot 6 in Block 13 of Springdale, again near the railroad near the south end of Spring Street.

These negotiations seem to be about Forrestina making arrangements to be compensated for some level of care for these individuals.

In 1941, she gained title to additional property near the railroad adjacent to the Plummer parcel. Additional land at this general location was obtained for back taxes in the amount of $20.68. In 1944, she bought another Springdale property under the same terms as two previous transactions, granting the seller the right to remain on the property until his death, price not named.

Of the 45 acquisitions, Forrestina negotiated a total of 22 land deals

Harding Rock Shop, west side of Highway 71 just south of West Fork. Courtesy David Ware.

aside from the deeded properties. Many of these were vacant lots in Springdale's Holcomb Addition forfeited to the state for back taxes. As her interest shifted from the harvest of forest land to sell as firewood and more toward building her real estate assets, in March 1946 she sold her original Washington County land at Head's Ford for an unspecified amount and began to focus on making a living in other ways. This may have been part of a swap for a property on Highway 71 South in Springdale.

It was 1940 when Forrestina began her ownership of land in south Washington County with the purchase of 20 acres near Woolsey and along the east side of Highway 71. She paid $700 at the onset and financed the balance of $675 at six percent interest with the seller. Ultimately she would own 66 acres slightly further south toward Brentwood.

Her interest in this initial location may have been a result of her (assumed) acquaintance with Clark Randolph Harding, who had opened a rock shop along Highway 71 at the south edge of West Fork. Harding was a circus man, described in his 1943 obituary as being in show business for the greater part of his life:

> For a number of years he was assistant manager of the Galmer Bros., Christie Bros. and Zelmer Bros. circuses... For the past five years he has been collecting Indian rocks, minerals, and fossils.[12]

Harding's shop attracted tourists and locals alike. The *Northwest Arkansas Times* ran a story about his shop in 1944, leading to the assumption that even after Harding's death, either his wife Ruth, son Marshall, and/or sister Lornelia Harding continued the shop's operation. From the *Times*:

> Someone suggests that we list the various points of interest surrounding Fayetteville. One of the newest is the Harding Rock Shop at West Fork. Here rock collectors will hardly leave a rock unturned in examining such. Arkansas quartz, crystals, calcite, iron pyrite, fluorite, mica schist, petrified wood, zinc, wavellite, black tourmaline, bauxite, mica, cinnabar, lead cubes, aragonite, nahcolite, acid spar, disatomations [?], scoria and copper. There are also ammonites, beak fossils, conglomerate crinoids, petrified cactus, fern shale, chambered nautilus, pins, conch, rose coral, sea horses, and abalone. Travelers along the highway from many distant states stop and learn a lot about what Arkansas and the Ozarks produce, usually taking away at least one of the interesting little "rock blocks."[13]

This photo—looking north-northeast from Highway 71—shows land, with present-day structures, that Forrestina Campbell purchased in the 1940s.

It's likely that Forrestina and Mr. Harding were acquaintances, and that some of the rocks he sold were supplied by Forrestina from her digs in Carroll County. Her 1950 move to a Highway 71 location just a few miles south of Harding's Rock Shop took up the trade that by now had ceased at the former Harding shop. Reports are that the Harding shop burned at some point.

Throughout these years, indeed to near the end of her life, Forrestina continued to travel the carnival circuit hawking her various games.

As previously stated, in April 1940, she bought her first property in south Washington County, 20 acres which contained a tucked in cove of the bluff to the east of the highway. She paid $25 down on the $700 price, owner financed the balance at six percent interest.[14] Subsequent decades have seen native stone terraces built up along the slope around log structures and sufficient outbuildings to house animal oddities. Operating under the name Lally's Oddities with specimens like two-headed snakes and conjoined twin turtles, the residents continue to exhibit at traveling carnivals.

Forrestina's deep affection for bluffs overlooking a river continued to drive her land purchases. In 1946, Forrestina paid $400 for another 20 acres west of the highway at the same location, mostly flat land and river and just downstream from a large spring that emerges from under the bluff to the east.

Forrestina was still deeply invested in Springdale, however, and after selling the gas station where she and Jack had first made their home, where she had survived his loss and the hard economic slump of the 1930s by the harvest and sale of firewood and other income-producing projects on the banks of White River, she indebted herself for $7,000 for 4.9 acres at a prominent location along Highway 71 in south Springdale. Some accounts say that a land swap was involved in this deal. Owner financed by Clarence A. Smith, the property occupied land west and north of Highway 71 as the highway curves west then south.[15]

She still hadn't abandoned her career in the carnival. In their time together before Jack's death, the couple operated several games including Ring Toss, Over and Under, Dice Game, Fish Pond, and their most famous, the Rat Game, which the couple allegedly invented. Frank Maestri

later remembered the rat game from Forrestina's carnival game setup at the Tontitown Grape Festival:

> As I remember the game, players would select a color and bet a dime on that color. White River Red would turn a rat loose on a board full of colored holes and the rat would run into a hole. If your bet was on the color the rat ran into, you won.[16]

Steele's account of the game stated that there were three rats involved who would duck through a hole to the box underneath. He also stated that Forrestina's hands were covered with rat bites.

> The white rat paid one for one, the gray two for one, and the black rat (called Old Coaly) paid five for one.[17]

Maestri further stated that "I can close my eyes and see a short stout woman, dressed more like a man than a woman, working one of the carnival games, and as I recall, her style was rough as a cob. To describe her in today's terms, she was very much an in-your-face kind of person."

Forrestina moved her commercial possessions to this new, highly visible site along the highway in south Springdale. This included a sprawling collection of carny equipment, animals of various sorts, and a smattering of buildings constructed on the vacant land for dwellings, storage, and work sheds. As Steele later wrote,

> These many animals, unsightly carnival equipment, rocks, posts, and wood piles resulted in many complaints about her from Springdale citizens interested in beautifying the city.

Under pressure from the powers that be, between 1950 and 1956, Forrestina sold off her Springdale properties at a hefty profit, enabling her to buy more land between West Fork and Brentwood on the west side of the highway and alongside the river. This less-contentious location was where she set up her operation, bringing all her array of carny gear, animals, and other accumulated goods of her 50 years of life. Following the closure of Harding's Rock Shop, she opened a shop where she attracted tourists and locals alike to buy interesting rocks and whatever else she might have on hand. Her animal collection also attracted gawkers while others came just to experience the woman herself.

During the next 15 years, she continued to spark interest and controversy, especially among local residents. Comments about their memories of her include:

> I remember a shack and tables
>
> I used to go there as a young teenager and usually buy a rabbit or two. She had every type of fowl, goats, donkeys, etc. and was very hospitable to us. Had two men that helped her mine the rocks/crystals that she sold…
>
> I have one of her crystal rocks! My boyfriend and I were in high school and stopped to look at her things. She gave it to me and said, "Sugar, you take it because he's handsome but this will be the only shiny rock you will get from him."
>
> Never will forget her. I have one of her oil storm lamps!

She showed me my first peacock when I was little. I loved all the stories that she and my grandmother would share.

I remember Forrestina, she was a hoot. When I was first married we got "stuff" from her for our house & yard. She always "threw in" extras.

I remember Red when she lived on the "Y" at Springdale where the Walgreen drugstore is now. In the late '50s she sold to the International Harvester company and moved south. She bought fuel for her truck where I bought gas for my car. She always reminded them that she got a discount on her fuel.[18]

Steele's work is most valuable for his documentation of her habits and personality. Regarding the animals, for example, he recorded the story of her particular favorite, a large baboon.

Rolland Endsley of Springdale recalls her unusual actions upon the death of her favorite animal friend. Endsley was manager of Springdale Freez-N-Stor, a public frozen storage warehouse. One day around 1949, Forrestina drove up to the facility with the body of her dead baboon and requested it be put under refrigeration until she could take it to Tulsa for mounting… Finally Forrestina arranged to ice the body down in a large box on a trailer for the trip to Tulsa. On the way she had trouble with her truck. Being a hot summer day, the ice soon melted and by the time she was on her way again, the animal began to decay and smell. She then gave up her idea of mounting her baboon friend and returned to Springdale to bury it quickly!

Animals served as her surrogate children, yet she also embraced opportunities to interact with real children. Steele writes:

The old Jaybird School [at Head's Ford] was near her White River home, and she made arrangements with the teacher to give the children an all-day party once each year. On Forrestina Campbell Day, she would bring food and refreshments to the school. She also brought monkeys, ponies to ride, and planned other games and entertainment. The children always looked forward to the special day. The small children had difficulty in pronouncing her name and she once told them to call her "Red." From this, "Red from White River" developed into "White River Red," the name that would stick with her.

Reports were that she wasn't particularly fond of that name on the lips of adults, and acquaintances knew better than to say it to her face.

Not that she didn't sometimes step outside such charitable interactions. Steele himself encountered one such moment the first time he met her:

"What the hell are you staring at, Kid?" The words—shattering the normally silent shade-covered Holcomb Street in Springdale, Arkansas in the early 1940s—were directed toward me… I was soon scampering home in fear.

She was dressed in men's boots, pants and shirt, and wore a floppy man's hat over her bright red hair. As a child, I was always intrigued by this strange woman who traded all kinds of items from her old yellow truck along Springdale's streets. Her manly dress, rough language, and strange polka-dotted eyes made most children afraid of her in those days. As I saw her periodically working around her carnival games at occasional fairs or celebrations or trading around town as I grew to manhood, my mind always flashed back to the fear she struck in me at our first meeting.

Forrestina's "family" not only included animals and, on occasion, school children, but also the many carnival friends she accumulated over the decades of her life. One later acquaintance stated that "Forrestina collected—I won't call them derelicts or homeless people—she collected and gathered orphan people."[19]

Steele recorded of her many charitable acts in his biography. They reveal a woman of determination and compassion:

"Booger Red" Patton explained that Forrestina had beneath her rough outward appearance a very soft heart that only her very closest associates ever knew. As an example, once Patton was sick with pneumonia. His wife was pregnant and he had no money or food in the house. Although Forrestina had fired him a few weeks before, she showed up that day with Dr. Sisco and several boxes of groceries…

Austin Cravens of Springdale recalls that while working as a clerk in Wilson's Department Store in the 1940s, Forrestina would bring in from 10 to 12 of her men and tell Austin to fit them out from skin up and to burn up their old clothes. The bill would total several hundred dollars. She carried a large sum of cash in a leather pouch that was tied to her belt and dropped into her pants. She would state, "Turn your head, Kid," pull out the pouch and roll out the cash in crisp new bills. Red Patton observed that Forrestina always carried large amounts of cash as she didn't trust banks due to a bank failure in Kansas in which she lost considerable funds in the 1920s. Others tell that she was once accused by another wood dealer of keeping the market price down because she gave as much wood to the poor as she sold. The man was told in no uncertain terms, "It's my wood, and I'll do as I damn well please with it!"

Frank O'Donnell of the Arkansas Western Gas Company recalled that once a month she came in to his office through the back door, requested gas bills for 8 to 10 poor families and paid them. Usually she requested families not be told who paid… [Another employee there stated that she also bought gas appliances and had them installed in homes of people who couldn't afford them.]

Gilbert Sisco knew Forrestina very well, for she came into his funeral home on many occasions. During these years, she paid for several $700 to $800 funeral services for persons who had died and couldn't afford services. Some she only barely knew. Gilbert also

observed that sometimes it took several years to pay out the service fee but eventually every cent was paid.

Leonard "Merry-Go-Round Crip" Byle traveled with White River Red on the carnival circuit from 1930 to 1960. Crip Byle was perhaps closer to her than anyone. Crip lost his leg while operating a merry-go-round in El Reno, Oklahoma, and shortly thereafter White River Red took him in. Crip stayed with her the last forty years of her life.

A former employee of Bedingfield's Five and Dime in downtown Springdale remembered that during the 1930s, Forrestina would bring poor kids into the store around Christmas and buy them things. Another former store clerk remembered Forrestina coming into a department store to buy "frilly things" for her nieces in St. Louis. This confirms she had stayed in contact with her family. Another person remembered Forrestina as a "rough-looking old gal walking down Emma Avenue with a .45 on her hip."[20]

One story about her commitment to animals involved Fayetteville's old 71 Drive-In:

> In 1959, a young UA law student named Richard Wommack was working his way through school by managing Fayetteville's 71 Drive In Theater. When he became manager, he inherited a run-down "kiddie zoo" as part of the drive-in attractions. The zoo consisted of four caged monkeys. The monkeys had been taunted by kids to the point that they were "mean as hell." Womack decided to get rid of them after a monkey urinated on a child. The janitor at the drive-in said he knew somebody who might take the monkeys. The next day, here came an old green bread truck with Forrestina driving and two carny men riding in the back. One of the men was Crip Byle.... Wommack said it was obvious that Forrestina hadn't taken a bath in quite a while. As he put it, "she smelled like hell, and for that reason, it was the fastest deal I ever made." She then ordered the two carnies to retrieve the four monkeys and the ensuing fracas looked like a cartoon where there is fighting and yowling and you can't see anything but clouds of dust and elbows. The biggest monkey bit Crip and blood flew everywhere. Finally they caught the four monkeys, loaded up the old truck, and Wommack watched Forrestina drive away with two bloodied carnies and four mean monkeys in the back of the truck.

Susan Young's recounting of this incident concluded with the remark that over the years, Forrestina rescued a number of exotic animals from "two bit circuses and roadside zoos."[21]

On the other hand, Forrestina did not suffer fools lightly. Her personal dignity and sense of humor carried her through many situations that a more retiring woman might find devastating. "Salty" language always flavored her words. In one incident, Steele reports on this part of her personality:

> Forrestina seemed to always be in a hurry as she went about her business affairs and those who knew her would often comment about the rush she was in. One day she was walking at her usual fast pace along a downtown street. Lee Shankles, the city marshal, noticed her and yelled out, "Where is the fire, Red?" She immediately stormed out in her usual form of classic comment, "It's right between my legs, Lee, and it's too bad you don't have enough hose to put it out."

Descriptions say she stood about an inch above five feet in height, did not smoke or drink, was adept in proper etiquette and social graces, and was well spoken in good English. Yet she didn't hesitate to react on whatever level she felt necessary in the moment. For example, a man visiting the carnival at Pea Ridge once accused her of cheating. She grabbed him by the shirt, pointed in his face, and said, "Listen, you son-of-a-bitch, I didn't cheat you. The carnival did. It's the carnival's business to cheat you, so if you don't want to lose your money, stay away from these damn carnivals."

Despite her alleged wealth including a bag of jewels she reportedly carried around with her and money buried in a box in the woods, Forrestina continued to follow her carnival circuit. Her last carny game played out on the 1970 circuit when she set up her booth at the Tontitown Grape Festival. Steele reported that "She looked the same as I first remembered her as a child. Floppy man's hat over bright red hair, the diamond earrings of which she was so proud, man's clothing, and heavy makeup attempted to hide the many wrinkles her 79 years had brought to her face. 'Hoory, Hoory, Place yer Bets,' her still-loud but somewhat cracking voice rang out through the carnival grounds."

Then, after 15 years at her new home in south Washington County were she had grown into friendly relationships with neighbors and built up a thriving trade, she encountered yet another curve ball that proved quite upsetting. The Arkansas Department of Transportation determined the need to re-align and resurface Highway 71 along the stretch of road where Forrestina had settled. As one person remembered,

> They moved her in 1965 when they widened Highway 71 from concrete to blacktop. The place where they moved her is on the west side of the highway.... I didn't know her but heard talk she gave the highway department hell when they forced her to move.[22]

In 1965, Forrestina was 74 years old. Such a move, of so many possessions, would have been an unimaginable nightmare and very upsetting. Chances are good that she burned the ears of more than one highway department employee. But, as they say, the government always wins. A deed dated November 23, 1964, granted her an unknown amount of acreage "lying West of U.S. Highway 71 being part of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter in Section 5 in Township 14, Range 30 W that is east of the bluff and north of the center line of said tract, except that part

that may be located in the right of way on Hwy 71."[23]

Some sources state that her new location was the same place as the Harding Rock Shop and that she lived in the log building that had been the shop. Others state that she used the former shop building for her rocks and other for-sale items. After her death, a two-story rock building located on the property burned at some point, and the subsequent owner lived in the log cabin until the roof leaks got so bad they tore it down and replaced it with a trailer that is there today. To date, no confirmation of this information has been discovered. But there were crystals and other rocks found on this property and even some embedded in the walls of the rock building.[24]

Such an uprooting of Forrestina's life surely had an impact on her state of mind. In September 1970, an unidentified nephew in Oklahoma petitioned the court to have the 79-year-old woman declared incompetent, and to have a lawyer appointed as her guardian. Opinions vary as to the motivation for this act, but suspicions ran strong that it was her fabled wealth he wanted guarded. Perhaps he truly felt concern for her well-being. Without a record, it's unknown what her condition might have been at that point, but senile dementia in one form or another was probably a factor.

Whatever the case, a year later she was placed in a Fayetteville nursing home, and her last hoard of money was paid out for medical bills and attorney fees. Young wrote:

> The court then ordered her land to be sold and her personal property to be auctioned off. Among the personal property listed in the court documents were 60 boxes of clothing obtained from the Salvation Army, 23 boxes of shoes, 120 boxes of stuffed animal toys, 40 boxes of other miscellaneous items, several items of circus canvas and installation equipment, various boxes of games, dishes, hats, circus knickknacks and toys, and other various items too numerous to mention. The ad ran in the *Northwest Arkansas Times,* October 14 and October 25, 1971.

Young's narrative stated that on the day of the auction, cars were lined up for miles along the highway, many attendees hopeful that a box of junk might contain Forrestina's hidden wealth. Alas, no stash of jewels or money was ever found. The sale of her many belongings and land reportedly netted a total of about $15,700.

The guardian, Dale Braden, proceeded to sell off her land. For the amount of $7,500, William C. and Beverly Litzinger purchased 66.01 acres in parts of the SW¼ NE¼ and the N½ SE¼ of Section 16, Township 14 North Range 30 West. Stanley D. Hollingsworth paid $3,750 and $250 for two tracts in Section 23 of that township and range. Marjorie F. Burnam paid $1,000 for 1.13 acres in Section 5 of that township and range, bringing the total of land sales to $12,500. Her entire lifetime collection of everything from critters to art to carny gear brought $2,300 at auction.

Whether she knew of her loss at that point of her life is not known. To have been declared "incompetent," she would have had to meet the state's criteria:

> … the person seeking the guardianship must prove that the adult, who would become the "ward," is legally incompetent and that appointing a guardian would be in his or her best interests. In order to be declared legally incompetent, it must be established that the individual lacks sufficient capacity to manage his or her own affairs. Also, a person may be deemed legally incompetent if he or she is unable to communicate critical decisions pertaining to medical treatment and other health issues or property and financial decisions. The guardian is usually a family member or professional.

Other than this guardianship, the relationship of Dale Braden to Forrestina is not known.

She died on August 19, 1973, age 82, after two years at Fayetteville City Hospital. She was buried in an unmarked grave a few yards from Jack Campbell at Friendship Cemetery in Springdale. Her grave remained unmarked until 1980 when Phillip Steele began raising funds for a tombstone.

Photograph courtesy of Rosa Cline, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39475902/forrestina-campbell

A *Springdale News* article by Guy Barnes the following year promoted Steele's efforts and summarized his story of her life. As a result of all efforts, $1,800 in donations were raised and used to purchase a fine headstone of—fittingly—red granite. The stone includes her name and dates of birth and death, with engravings of circus scenes on either side. At the top, her nickname of "White River Red" appears in slightly smaller letters. Beneath her name, the line reads "A legend in her own time. Erected in her memory by friends. 1981"[25]

Following the auctions, locals helped haul off a lot of things that didn't

sell. Don Jones, a transplanted hippie from northern climes, carted huge boxes of clothes, purses, and shoes to the nascent natural food cooperative on West Avenue in Fayetteville. He—and perhaps others—also farmed on her land, taking advantage of her perennials like strawberries and rhubarb as well as planting vegetables which he sold at Fayetteville's early farmers' market. Other people hung out at her place during those years.[26]

It was Richard Wommack, at that point an attorney, who verified in a signed affidavit dated November 14, 1972, that Forrestina was the same as Forrestinea, thereby allowing the legal disposal of her lands.[27]

At some point early in her years in the carnival, Forrestina surely recognized that she was as much an attraction as her various games. Her raucous voice as she pushed her games as well as her outré appearance provoked curiosity and attracted people and their money. As with all the acts offered by a circus or carnival, it wasn't just the exotic animals or the trapeze artist, or the bearded lady or jugglers. It was the strangeness of walking along the midway on familiar fair grounds, so near home and yet seeing it transformed into a world of the Other—people of other races from the opposite side of the world, women dressed in sparkling, tight fitting costumes that exposed most of their bodies, strange and unexpected sights and sounds—people like Forrestina who didn't live by the rules, willing even eager to demonstrate her "Otherness." These interactions rippled through minds and communities, breaking down traditional barriers and prejudices about foreign people and places as well as concepts about self. Outside of norms, of set rules and assumptions, lies a world of possibilities and endless freedom. Forrestina seized that opportunity and, despite her many heartbreaks, carved out a place for herself in history.

Endnotes

[1] Multiple spellings of Forrestina include Forrestinea, Forrestina, Forestina, and Forestine. Most deed records in Washington County Archives show her name as Forrestinea. Phillip Steele's biography uses 'Forrestina." We have chosen to use his spelling.

[2] Records are evenly divided about whether she was born April 5 or April 15.

[3] Susan Young, "How Forrestina Campbell Became White River Red," PowerPoint program, Shiloh Museum, Springdale, Arkansas, January 2009.

[4] 1925 Kansas Territory Census, Roll: KS1925_166; Line: 11. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. 1925 Kansas Territory Census available online at https://www.kshs.org/p/1925-kansas-state-census/10957#contents.

[5] In some family history records, Jack and Forrestina are mistakenly assigned identity as Jack W. and Nell M. Bradley, names listed in the federal census for Kansas City as well in Kansas City directories. However, the census shows this Jack as age 23 and Nell as 25, and living with their daughter age two months; clearly not Jack and Forrestina.

[6] "Earl Franklin Cate, April 19, 2010," The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, Arkansas Memories Project. Accessed Oct 17, 2021, at https://www.google.com/search?q=Arkansas+Memories+Project+Earl+Franklin+Cate.

[7] Deed Record 271-578, Washington County Archives.

[8] Theo Johnson and France Johnson were third cousins (once removed) whose ancestors had traveled from Tennessee to settle this area in the early 19th century. It's not known what kind

of relationship existed between the two Johnsons at the time of these interactions with the Campbells.

[9] Susan Young noted in her PowerPoint presentation, "How Forrestina Campbell Became Whitee River Red," that Kirk had lost a leg in a carnival accident and Forrestina took him in.

[10] *Mineral Resources and Industries of Arkansas*, United States. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969, p. 201.

[11] Deed Record 308-164, Washington County Archives

[12] "Rites Today for Former Circus Man," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, April 21, 1943, p. 9.

[13] "Points of Local Interest," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, July 1, 1944, p 7. Some spellings have been corrected from the original article.

[14] Deed Record 320-33, Washington County Archives.

[15] Described in Deed Record 396-375 as part of the NE 1/4 NE ¼ of Section 11-17-30 "being all of said forty acre tract lying West and North of U. S. Highway No. 71 as now laid out." Maps do not show this location at the time of this deed, but the location is approximately where a Walgreen's Drug Store is presently located. The site was described by Steele as the location of International Harvester (1979).

[16] Young, PowerPoint.

[17] Steele, Phillip. White River Red, self-published 1979.

[18] Quotes from remarks posted October 28 through November 2, 2021, to Facebook groups West Fork—a little bit of everything" and "Remember When…Winslow AR" in response to this author's query.

[19] Young, PowerPoint.

[20] Ibid.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Facebook feedback to author.

[23] Deed Record 683-459, Washington County Archives.

[24] Private communication with author, October 20, 2021.

[25] Photograph courtesy of Rosa Cline, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39475902/forrestina-campbell Accessed October 31, 2021

[26] 2019 telephone conversation between author and Steve Winkler, who visited with Don Jones at the property during that period.

[27] Deed Record 841-801, Washington County Archives.

Jug Wheeler's Drive In

Dickson Street Fixture Serving Burgers and Fries, 1947-1964

By J.B. Hogan

Garland "Jug" Wheeler was listed at a generous five feet six inches when he was chosen captain of the University of Arkansas freshman basketball team during the 1932-1933 season.[1] Though small in stature, Jug had an accurate two-handed set shot, and it had taken the stocky guard to reserve letterman status by the beginning of the 1934-1935 season.[2]

Jug's university playing days were over before the season ended, however, but he stayed on in Fayetteville playing some semi-pro basketball (he was on the local Jerpe Dairy team by February 1935).[3] Taking advantage of his local popularity and hustling entrepreneurial spirit, he gained a foothold in the Fayetteville restaurant business, joining with Ralph L. Ferguson to run the De Luxe Eat Shop at 306 West Dickson Street for about three years.[4]

Then, at the age of 25, Jug had a new building constructed at the old De Luxe location and on Wednesday, June 2, 1937, started his own "new" De Luxe Eat Shop. The *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* (one month from becoming the *Northwest Arkansas Times*) was full of congratulatory advertisements for Jug's accomplishment. On opening day, the De Luxe offered specially

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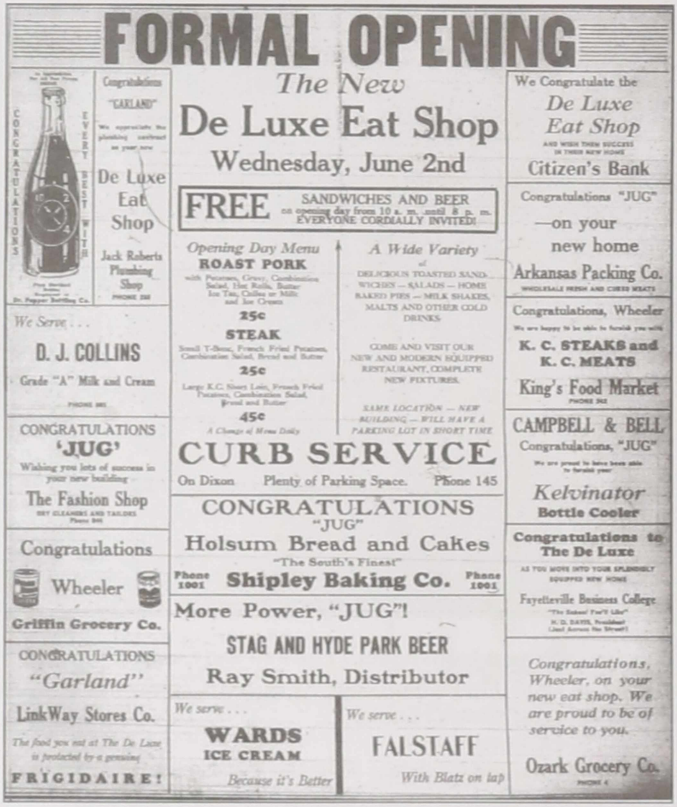


When Jug Wheeler launched the De Luxe Eat Shop in June 1937, local businesses ran ads in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* congratulating him. Advertisement image courtesy of *NWA Times / NWA Democrat-Gazette*; published June 1, 1937.

priced meals, including Roast Pork and Steak meals for 25 cents and a large K. C. Short Loin dinner for 45 cents. They also advertised "Plenty of Parking Space" and Curb Service as well.

The De Luxe Eat Shop, often just called the Deluxe by locals, was managed in the 1950s by Roy Hodge, a proud name in eating establishments in Fayetteville since the turn of the century. Inside the De Luxe, customers were treated to a large painting on the north wall depicting in full color and graphic detail the heroic demise of George Armstrong Custer and his men at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Ten years after opening the De Luxe, Jug started the business that would become a fixture on Dickson Street for almost two decades. On Wednesday afternoon, May 28, 1947, at 4 p.m.,[5] he opened Wheeler's Drive In directly across the alley from the Deluxe. Located at 310 West Dickson Street (another eatery sits atop the old restaurant today), Jug's was a bustling place catering heavily to the college trade. A small fleet of Renault Dauphins were maintained and always on the go to the university and all around town, constantly com-

Arlene Kelly Stewart, working as a carhop at Jug Wheeler's Drive In and carrying a tray with a patron's order; taken in 1959. Photograph courtesy of *NWA Times / NWA Democrat-Gazette* / Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

ing and going with orders for waiting customers.

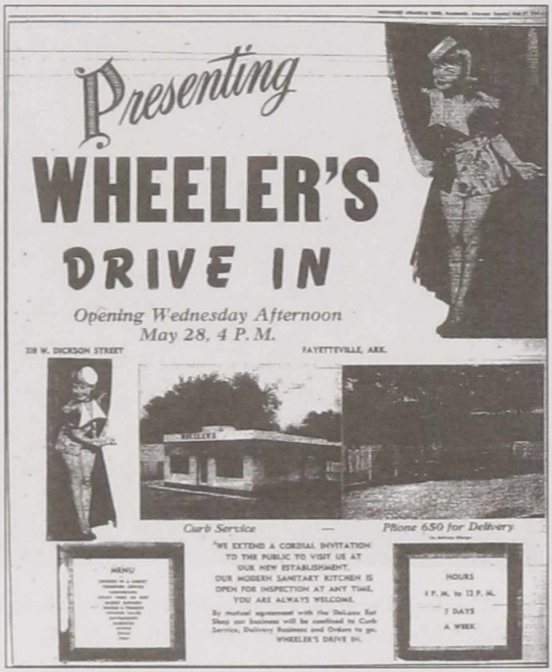
The outside lot at Jug's was U-shaped with around 20 or so parking spaces. Hungry and thirsty folks would back their cars in and then place orders through a speaker phone that was part of a system called Teletray.[6] Carhops, always young and usually attractive women, hustled the orders out to waiting customers, attaching trays to the partially rolled up driver's window.

Inside the west door, on the main floor, were the ladies who took phone orders. In front and to the left of the phones was the dishwasher position with two sinks, a small brush station for quickly cleaning glasses, and a dump hole for tossing garbage from trays brought in from the lot.

The counter ran around the room, also in a U-shape, and to the left of the dishwasher was the fountain boy, who made cokes, malts, and shakes. The carhop stand, the beer and food order counter, and the cashier were located by the east door. Directly behind the dishwasher, and separated from the front area, were the fry cooks. This was where the burgers and fries came from that constituted the main thrust of Jug's menu.

Outside the counter was, again, a U-shaped walkway that ran from the west door to the east door. Carhops always came in the east door to get their loaded trays, and they walked around the room to deposit the

dirty ones on the counter in front of the dishwasher. Directly across from the dishwasher, just to the west side of the front door, was a jukebox on which the top hits of the time played. Every month or so a jukebox guy came by to change records. Each time he did, he set the machine to let delighted employees play maybe 10 or so songs for free.



Jug Wheeler's Drive In opens in May, 1947. Image of ad courtesy of *NWA Times / NWA Democrat-Gazette* / Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

Jug's frequently catered meals at places like the Fayetteville Country Club and at the outdoor pavilion on North Garland out by the University of Arkansas Agri Farm. The large fryers in Jug's back room were used to make massive quantities of fried chicken which were put in big silver pots to take out to wherever the catering job was.

The basement was dark and dank, consisting of a huge beer cooler on the left of the stairs, a big meat locker opposite that, and large shelves where the industrial-sized cans of pork and beans and such were kept. Straight into the room, toward the back, was a barrel full of garbage dropped down the slot from the dishwasher's position. Leaning against the back wall was a long, metal rod used to poke the garbage down into the barrel.

The floor inside the working area upstairs had to be cleaned at least once a week. Several wooden-slat grates covered the floor and had to be lifted up individually. After a week of spills—coffee, milk, orange juice, hot chocolate, beer, malts and shakes, foul cigarette butts and scraps of filthy paper—a kind of sludge built up there that took some serious work to remove.

On a a more pleasant note, Jug's sold slices of pies from Shipley's Holsum Bakery which was located directly across Dickson Street. Shipley's, whose light yellow brick building still stands at its original location —though it has been occupied for many years by different businesses—

Jug Wheeler's Drive In, Dickson Street, circa early to mid-1950s. Photograph courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (S-87-261-3).

baked breads, rolls, donuts, and pies. Apple pies, perfectly baked with a light brown crust and a rich, sweet, caramelized filling, were one of their specialties. Local schools often had day trips to Shipley's where children got to see the inner workings of the bakery and get a hot roll with honey as a treat at tour's end.

Because it was basically on the way to the university and its football stadium and basketball field house, out of towners would frequent Jug's on game days. Texans, in particular, would find their way there, and they were not shy about spending money. They would do remarkable things like give a Jug's employee a one-dollar tip for simply getting change for a $10 bill.

Razorback athletes would sometimes pop into Jug's as well. Employees would be thrilled by the sudden appearance at the drive-in of one of the Razorback players. Lance Alworth, for example, one of the greatest athletes to ever play at the University of Arkansas and a man who would later become a hall of fame receiver in pro football, was known to come to Jug's during his Fayetteville years.

Saturday, October 15, 1960, was a remarkable day. Arkansas was battling the Texas Longhorns, their archrivals, down in Austin. The radio inside Jug's was always on when the Razorbacks played and when Micky Cissell kicked a fourth quarter field goal to give the Hogs a 24-23 win,[7] Dickson Street turned into a madhouse.

Within moments of the game's final gun, it seemed like every stu-

dent in town turned out—especially if they had a car. Dickson was full of cheering, screaming, horn-honking celebrants. So many people were out on the street that there was actual gridlock for a half hour or more. Nothing ever made Fayetteville happier than when the Pigs defeated the hated Longhorns, absolutely nothing.

Jug's only lasted a few years after that legendary Razorback victory, closing in 1964. In the following years the building housed another drive-in restaurant, then a day-old bread store, and finally evolved into nothing more than a place where somebody parked an ATM machine. Eventually the original building was torn down and a new restaurant built on top of the old pad. Jug himself passed away on April 28, 1973, and is buried along with other members of his family in Fairview Cemetery.

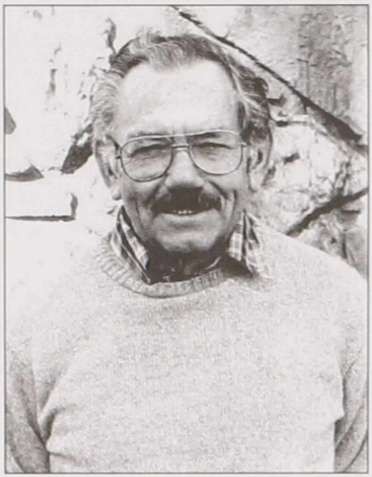
Today, there's no indication that Jug Wheeler's Drive In ever existed there at 310 West Dickson Street. But for those who knew the place and remember it and the atmosphere that prevailed there so long ago, the memory of this once iconic cafe will always remain a part of Fayetteville history.

Endnotes

[1]*Razorback* (annual student yearbook), University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1933.
[2]*Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, December 14, 1934.
[3]Ibid., February 15, 1935.
[4]Ibid., June 1, 1937.
[5]*Northwest Arkansas Times*, May 27, 1947.
[6]Ibid., March 27, 1957.
[7]Orville Henry and Jim Bailey, *The Razorbacks: A Story of Arkansas Football* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1996), pp. 184-185.

Cy Sutherland: *Architect Educator Preservationist*

By Andrea Cantrell



Cyrus Sutherland. Photograph located at "Cyrus Sutherland: Architect, Educator and Preservationist," Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas, December 2015. http://digitalcollections.uark.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/Cyrus.

Cyrus A. Sutherland's contributions to Fayetteville are both tangible in our built environment and intangible through his lasting impact on students and the community. He took his responsibilities as educator beyond developing and teaching courses in design, history of architecture, and historic preservation out into the community through public lectures, exhibits of his photography, raising public awareness of the advantages of preservation of historic buildings, and participation in numerous organizations. All delivered with infectious enthusiasm, willingness to think outside the box, self-effacing leadership, and personal charm.

A native of Rogers, Sutherland,[1] wife Martha, daughter Celia, and son Ian came to Fayetteville in 1958 when he joined the University of Arkansas architecture faculty. Their son Winthrop (Win) was born in Fayetteville. Previously Sutherland had served in the Air Force Medical Administrative Corps during WW II. In 1949 he received a master's degree in architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, worked for Coletti Brothers in Boston for four years, and for Daniel, Mann, Johnson,

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and Mendenhall in Paris and London for five years.

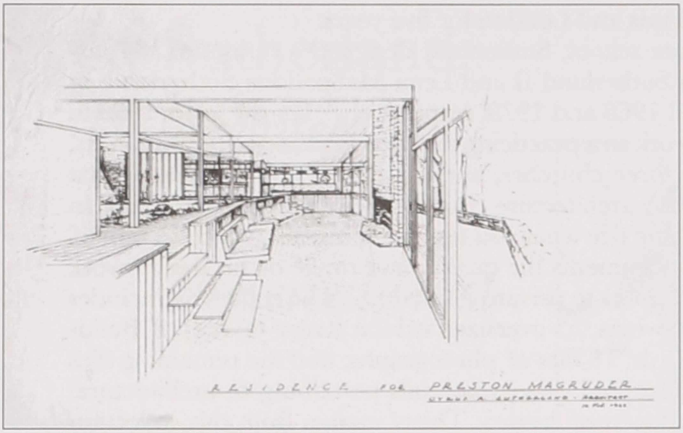
While in graduate school, Sutherland designed a house for his parents, James William Sutherland II and Lena McSpadden Sutherland, in which they lived until 1966 and 1978, respectively.[2] For the years 1960 to 1986, Sutherland's work as a practicing architect included "17 residences, two public libraries, three churches, and a school."[3] John Williams, first chairman of the UofA architecture program, encouraged all faculty in the department to "practice what you teach." A manuscript collection of Sutherland's papers documents the quality and range of his design work from churches and libraries to private residences.[4] The collection includes 94 files of project drawings, 53 oversized exhibit items; 60 files of Buildings of Arkansas records; 18 files of photographs; and the remaining files contain correspondence and other materials pertaining to architectural preservation and architectural history. Thirty images from this collection can be seen in a digital exhibit "Cyrus Sutherland: Architect, Educator and Preservationist."[5]

Sutherland's designs reflect his use of features of the site like slope, rock formations, streams, drainage, and native vegetation as well as impact the building would have on the landscape. For the latter, he was sensitive to the height and width of the structure in proportion to the site and adjacent properties, where shadows would be cast, orientation for the best view from inside the home, and position of the approach.

He particularly excelled at making the most of each building site to bring the outdoors into the home by creatively using expansive windows and natural materials. For example, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Meyer, designed by Sutherland and Keith McPheeters,[6] accomplished the Meyers' desire to have a house with an airy feeling by using light-reflecting marble chips as roofing material. "Although contemporary in styling, it is marked by a traditional spirit of comfort and spaciousness." Blending the two styles "created a distinctive and individual home."[7]

The Anderson-Taylor House, constructed in 1969 and located at 1599 W. Halsell Road, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018. "The house is clad in natural materials, such as stone and wood, and is a remarkable example of the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Organic Modern style of architecture."[8]

The Anderson-Taylor house is joined by three Sutherland houses added to the National Register in 2022 and comprise the North Garvin Drive Historic District.[9] Sutherland designed the houses at 37 North Garvin Drive and 15 North Garvin Drive for Preston Magruder in 1961 and 1983 respectively. Sutherland and Edwin Keith McPheeters in 1962 designed the third house, at 49 North Garvin Drive, for Dr. Glenn Cole and his wife Frances.[10] McPheeters was a UofA architecture faculty member in 1956-1966. Kris Katrosh and Deborah Ahring later bought the Cole house which has "floor to ceiling windows and black concrete floors . . . it's like living on a big porch," Ahring said of the house, and is well suited to



Preston-Magruder residence interior, designed by Sutherland. Image courtesy of Martha Sutherland.

her gardening interests.[11]

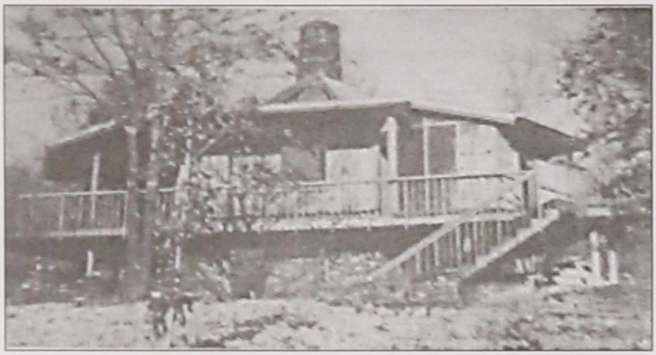
Magruder, UofA theater professor (1949-1983), loved to entertain. The expansive space shown in the drawing here opened onto a charming courtyard with outstanding woodland views.

The home Sutherland designed for Lester and Elizabeth Howick is located about halfway between Fayetteville and Tontitown on Reed Valley Road (County Rd 893). "The hexagonal house is distinctive, not only for its departure from common-place architecture, but because it so admirably fits its setting and its owners." One feature especially suited the Howicks—"the living room is dramatically perched mid-air at tree-top level" and was ideal for their bird watching. The "judicious use of extensive glass areas, opening to wide vistas of countryside, makes the setting an integral part of the interior."[12]

In 1972-74, Sutherland designed a house for Phil and Alice Ruppert. Returning from years of service for the U.S. State Department, Ruppert asked Sutherland to design a home in which to uniquely house and display their sizeable collections of furniture, art, and artifacts from various Eastern countries in which he had served.[13] The result was an expansive modular combination of rooms in which to display separate collections in a quasi-museum style. Drawings in the Cyrus Sutherland Papers[14] show that the roofs were pyramidal and the open public spaces included double-sized living and family rooms. They also show there are 4 bedrooms (a few may also have been used as collection display areas), 2 and ½ baths, a laundry room, and an enclosed porch.[15] In 1990, after John Tyson bought the house, he hired Sutherland to modify it. After a fire in 2002, damages were repaired and the house was enlarged.

In addition to the manuscript collection of Sutherland's papers noted above, are two other collections of interest. The first consists of project reports by 56 students submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for his course AR 5483, during 1973-1988.[16]

One of the papers describes photographs taken at the "Ben Johnson Pear Farm" by John H. Jones and Steve Moss, May 4, 1979.[17] The farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Benjamin



Sutherland house designed for Phil and Alice Ruppert in 1973. Courtesy the *Northwest Arkansas Times*, December 16, 1973, p. B1.

Franklin Johnson II Homestead District and has a Conservation Easement with the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust. Two articles describing the farm and the Johnson family have been published in *Flashback*.[18] One of Anne Prichard's fond memories of Cy was that he and her father, Ben F. Johnson had both attended Harvard and when her parents retired to the family farm, her father asked Cy to "design a long wall of bookcases for their Craftsman Bungalow farmhouse. It has always looked just right and has always been full!"[19] In 1973, Sutherland obtained a $2,000 grant for students "to study and inventory rapidly disappearing 19th century barns."[20]

The second additional collection documents Sutherland's knowledge of historic structures in the area. It pertains to the television miniseries *The Blue and The Gray* which was filmed (1981) primarily in Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and Van Buren. Sutherland identified and consulted on selections of architectural locations for filming. Based on a story by John Leekley, the script was written by Ian McLellan Hunter. Bruce Catton was the historical consultant for the show.[21] Set during the Civil War, the miniseries aired on CBS in November 1982. Sutherland donated his filming location notes and a copy of the first revised draft of *The Blue and the Gray* film script.[22] A former student reported that Gregory Peck, who portrayed Abraham Lincoln in the series, was seen walking across campus to meet with Sutherland.[23]

A collection at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies includes information about Sutherland's extensive contributions to historic preservation. It consists of 40 boxes of writings, photographs, recordings, computer discs, and other materials for Preserve Arkansas, founded as the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas.[24]

Sutherland taught classes in Ancient architecture, Architecture Design I through VIII, Materials and Construction, Historic Preservation, and Arkansas Architecture History.[25] The Historic Preservation course which he introduced in 1970 was popular for 20 years.[26] Sutherland's commitment to putting his students first was recognized in several ways. He received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching from the University Alumni Association in 1986. He was elected by students to the Omicron Delta Kappa Teacher Honor Roll and received a Tau Sigma

Delta Honor Society Award for Distinction in Architectural Education. In 1989 he was awarded the faculty rank of University Professor.

As well as teaching, Sutherland actively expanded his own education. He was granted three off-campus study assignments to Europe (in 1966-67, 1975, and 1985) where he completed photographic and documentary studies of buildings and sites of Byzantine, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures in the eastern half of the Roman Empire.[27] He used those experiences to provide first-hand knowledge of what he had observed and photographed to students in his classes and in public lectures and exhibits. Celia, Ian, and Win observed during the 1966 sabbatical how their father "never stopped teaching, even when he was outside of the classroom."[28]

In fall 1985, the Sutherlands retuned from the eight-month sabbatical in Europe which began with research in the American Academy in Rome. On this trip he was researching the original purpose and function of memorial and honorary arches, often mistakenly identified as triumphal arches. After visiting and photographing them, he observed that "some are neglected in isolated loneliness but others have become centerpieces of urban pride."[29]

"Cy loved the classical world," recalled Murray Smart, former dean of the UofA School of Architecture. "He traveled extensively and made those experiences an integral part of his courses here. Many students developed their love of history in his class."[30]

In addition to gallery lectures on campus, Sutherland conducted scores of documented lectures from 1968 to 1987 at meetings of community clubs, historical societies, museums, churches, and more in Northwest Arkansas and around the state. As one would expect, many of them were about specific historic buildings and historic preservation topics. In Fayetteville, he spoke to the Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Fayetteville High School, Fayetteville Study Club, Washington County Historical Society, DAR, UA Museum, First Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church Art Festival, and more. His topics included "Historic Houses of Fayetteville and Environs," "Notable Buildings of Washington County," "What and How the Romans Built," and "What Deserves Preservation; What is Not Worth Preserving."[31]

In 1981, Sutherland researched content for, hosted, and narrated the documentary video *Arkansas: Its Architectural Heritage, 1800-1861* which the Arkansas Educational Television Network filmed, broadcast in 1981, and distributed statewide for use by schools. It was directed by architecture professor Harry Gordon Brooks II and scripted by drama professor Kent R. Brown.[32] Sutherland was selected as the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities Featured Humanist in 1983 in recognition of his role as principal historian on that project.[33]

His photographs have been used in major exhibits in Fayetteville; for example, "A Triumph of Arches," exhibited in the UofA Walker Hall Gallery, featuring 60 of his photographs of Roman arches, and "Arkansas

Then" for the UofA Centennial Celebration in 1973, which was adapted for use by the Arkansas Art Center to tour the state for one year.

Sutherland also shared his talents in numerous community organizations, such as serving on the board of the Community Concert Association.[34] He enjoyed the theatrics of portraying Critias, an Athenian dictator, in the UofA Theater's comedy-drama production of *Barefoot in Athens*, in which his youngest son Winthrop portrayed Socrates' youngest son.[35] He played one of the characters in the two-member cast of *Love Letters*, produced by OzarkStageWorks.[36] His contributions to the Washington County Historical Society included much more than board membership and serving two terms as president; for example he led several of the society's walking tours of downtown Fayetteville.[37] By far one of Sutherland's most popular WCHS roles was as originator and host of the annual ice cream social which began in 1972 with a "Gay Nineties" theme and costumes.

Sutherland at an annual WCHS Ice Cream Social, wearing the signature jacket his daughter Celia made for him. Photo courtesy of Martha Sutherland.

Comments from Former Students

Leslie Belden: On Sutherland's teaching style and influence, "Cy taught a class in historic preservation that impacted me greatly." She and her husband Ted Belden own Old Buildings, a Fayetteville property company specializing in restoration.[38] Sutherland's influence led to the Beldens' "commitment to preserve the best of Arkansas' historic architecture, which has included The Inn at Carnall Hall and many other notable buildings in Fayetteville."[39]

Tommy Jameson[40]: On Sutherland's course Restoration and Preservation. "I was like, Wow! . . . that sparked my interest." After graduation he went back to Little Rock "determined to buy a historic house," and he did—buying a Colonial Revival house on Scott Street. He has gone on to create an impressive record of renovating historic buildings, including replication of the Mosaic Templars building in Little Rock after it was destroyed by fire.[41]

Gordon Duckworth: On Sutherland's often theatrical style of delivering class lectures. A fellow student told Duckworth, "Cy came in to Architectural History class one day and the lights were turned off except for the podium task light. Cy ran up to the podium in an excited state and

proclaimed, 'Today you are going to hear about Mesopotamia!!'"[42] Duckworth's paper in the Preservation and Restoration class[43] was about the Luke L. Kantz House. which was built on "200 acres of land, 125 being under cultivation."[44] Also, for that class, Duckworth researched and gave a presentation about the property where Ernest Hemingway stayed in 1928 in Piggott, Arkansas, after his marriage to Pauline Pfeiffer. While there, "Hemingway often spent time hunting quail along with working regularly on his writing. A small barn at the Pfeiffer home was converted into his private writing studio, where he worked on the novel *A Farewell to Arms*."[45]

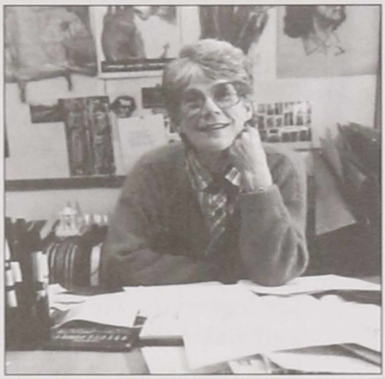
Mark Robertson: "Cy Sutherland was one of my favorite professors. He brought to life the concept and importance of historical preservation and made it interesting and relevant. As a result of his instruction and encouragement I have taken on several historical renovation and preservation projects such as Old Washington State Park, Powhattan Courthouse, Oak Cemetery, Old Mill, and numerous other state parks. He seemed to understand that landscape architecture had an important role to play in historic preservation and welcomed us wholeheartedly into his classroom."[46] Robertson remembers that Sutherland emphasized "sensitivity and awareness of context for the site regardless of architectural style. This was applicable to CCC/WPA work in parks and public places as well as Mid-Century Modern residential and other styles." Sutherland stressed that "Preservation is more than simply the structure."[47]

David McKee: In Sutherland's Ancient Architectural History class, "it helped that he had traveled the Middle East, Greece, Italy, and France. He shared tons of his personal photographs and commentary. Cy, Fay Jones, and John Williams were very close friends having spent years together on the faculty and good times socially. Their experience and accomplishments in building design and construction resonated with me most. Many of their students who went through the program in the 'good ole days' can attribute their success directly to these 'gentlemen scholars.'"[48]

Bob Kempkes: As a member of the Arkansas State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for about 13 years, when three of Sutherland's residential projects were recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, Kempkes recalled "many wonderful memories of 'Cy Sutherland the Professor.' It's been over 40 years since I graduated from architecture school, but what I still remember most about Cy was his kindness. He was always encouraging and positive to his students, preferring to find what was done well on a project and building upon that."[49]

Eva Kultermann: Says she will "never forget that during Cy's history lectures his photos of iconic buildings were usually taken by himself and always included Martha—Martha in front of the Pyramids, the Parthenon, and so on. They were such an amazing team!"[50]

Martha Slocum Sutherland



Martha Slocum Sutherland. Photo courtesy of Kim Harington.

Martha Slocum Sutherland, associate professor emeritus of architecture, documented the history and architecture of the Via di Borgo Pio on her off-campus leave in 1992. It is located just outside the Vatican, which retained its essential character for centuries. Her drawings and narrative captured its style and spirit before gentrification of the aging structures began threatening its historic character.

Two of her other books continue to be very useful to architecture and other design students: *Lettering for Architects and Designers*[52] and *Modelmaking: A Basic Guide* (Norton Professional Books for Architects & Designers).[53] She also collaborated with Barbara Jackson of the Music Department on two videotapes for the Women in the Arts lecture series.[54]

She was active for years in the Design Communication Association,[55] serving as vice president in 1992 and 1993.

When 12-year-old Jonathan Story was campaigning to save the former Ozark Theatre, he asked Sutherland's advice. The Sutherlands had been neighbors of Story's grandparents and knew one another from church where Story played the organ and Sutherland sang in the choir. Story says, "Cy was a friend and mentor. He was so knowledgeable and easy to talk to about anything—architecture, history, photography, opera, Shakespeare, and more." During summer 1994, Story had "collected 1000 signatures for the Ozark Theatre petition, made speeches at City Council meetings, and met with local officials." In 1995, Story received the Preservation Advocacy Award from HPAA.[56] The petition drive succeeded in saving the building which was constructed in 1904 by the Knights of Pythias Criterion Lodge #36 and later became the Ozark Theatre. The building had been mostly vacant since 1977. It was restored during 1996 to 1998 by Richard Alexander and Rob Merry-Ship. Since 2008, it has been occupied by Mitchell Communications Group, Inc.[57]

Another indication of appreciation for the impact Sutherland had on his students is that former students Ted and Leslie Belden donated $1 million to fund the Cyrus A. and Martha Sutherland Endowed Chair in Preservation Design "to support an endowed chair who demonstrates leadership in preservation design education," announced in November 2017.[58]

Two other endowments have been named in his honor. The Cy Sutherland Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas Scholarship is

awarded by the Fay Jones School of Architecture and funded by Preserve Arkansas. Twenty-six scholarships have been awarded to date—the first in September 1996 to Kevin James Coker and an award made recently (August 2021) to Devin S. Tabor. Developers John Nock, Richard Alexander, Ted Belden, and Rob Merry-Ship donated $50,000 to "the University of Arkansas School of Architecture in honor of Cyrus and Martha Sutherland" in 2005.[60]

Historic Preservation and Conservation Work

Cy Sutherland's contributions to historic preservation in Arkansas are legendary. He served on the National Trust for Historic Preservation and was named adviser emeritus to its board in 2001; he was appointed by a succession of governors to the Arkansas State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (1971-1997); he was a founding member of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas in 1981; he received the distinguished Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1989; and he gave countless public lectures. A popular topic was "The Future of the Past" based on his paper by that title which was published in *The American Experience*.[61] The first time he delivered it was on campus as part of the lecture series sponsored by the University's Bicentennial Committee and the UofA Foundation.[62]

Sutherland expressed in several interviews that he considered his work on *Buildings of Arkansas*[63] as the "highlight of his emeritus years." He traveled across the state for years researching sites and examining records in archives and courthouses to identify and evaluate buildings to be included. Karen Kingsley, retired editor-in-chief (2006-2021) of the Society of Architectural Historians' Buildings of the United States series and professor emeritus of the Tulane University School of Architecture, says, "Cy understood and conveyed that buildings are not just stone and wood but are living artifacts of people's lives, history, and ambitions. He was fascinated by how buildings changed over time, gaining new meaning over their lifetimes. He also appreciated how buildings related to their particular place, climate, and situation within the Arkansas landscape."[64]

In her remarks in the foreword of the book, Dr. Kingsley states, "As well as writing the text of many of the buildings included in this book, Cy determined the organization of the volume and selected or guided the choice of most of the buildings. His deep knowledge of and love for the architecture of Arkansas, from its humblest buildings to its grandest and from its oldest to its newest, underpins the volume's content."[65]

In Fayetteville, Sutherland directed the definition, survey, and nomination to the National Register for the Washington-Willow and Mount Nord Historic Districts. Eighty buildings in the two districts are included on the National Register. The five imposing homes in the Mount Nord Historic District were the Pritchard House (circa 1907); the Bohart-Huntington House (circa 1901); the Gulley House (circa 1905), substantially

Washington County Historical Society

announces

The 14th Annual Competition for Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the 14th annual competition for two awards for articles about the history of Washington County. Each award carries an honorarium of $250. The two categories of awards are:

* The Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article on Washington County history, with preference given to subjects outside Fayetteville;
* The Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize for best article on Washington County history, with a focus on Fayetteville.

Topics can address any aspect of county history, including archeology, lives of individuals, architecture, arts and crafts, or records of institutions, and can be set in any time period. All historians – both professional and amateur – are invited to submit articles. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting in October.

Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2023.

Judging is based on contributions to the expansion of the county's history; originality of the subject; and use of primary and secondary sources. Articles must be original material, and not previously published.

Submissions must be typed, and preferably include endnotes. Length – not including endnotes – can range from 2,500 words to 5,000 words. The title page should be headed: "WCHS Prize," followed by the manuscript full title, and the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned. All submissions will be considered for publication in the WCHS journal *Flashback*. WCHS reserves the right to award one or no prizes. Back issues of *Flashback* are available at the Fayetteville Public Library.

Submit manuscripts by June 30, 2023, by mail or email:

* By mail: Patsy Watkins, WCHS Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701.
* Email: Patsy Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu

For questions, contact Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu.

altered after a fire in 1970; the Lawsen House (circa 1925); and the Mock-Fulbright House (circa 1901), built as a two-story Classical Revival to which a two-story wing was added circa 1915. These houses present a range of early-20th-century architectural styles: Classical, Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival, some with influences of Renaissance Revival and Victorian Italianate style and characteristics of the Beaux Arts influence.

The Ridge House in preparation for Sutherland's restoration. Photo located at Cyrus A. Sutherland Papers, MC 1496, Box 4, Folder 3, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.

These homes were designed and landscaped to symbolize the prosperity and prestige of its inhabitants. Early owners of Mount Nord homes included individuals who made significant contributions to Fayetteville's early-20th-century commercial growth, including lumber entrepreneur E.C. Pritchard, banker James Bohart; President of the Ozark White Lime Company F. O. Gulley; investor J. E. Mock; banker and owner of several Fayetteville businesses; Jay Fulbright; Roberta Fulbright, owner and editor of the *Fayetteville Democrat*; and their son J. William Fulbright who served as president of the UofA (1939-1941) and United States Senator (1944-1974).[66]

The Washington-Willow Historic District consists of 105 primary structures located on the north-south streets of Washington and Willow and five east-west streets: Lafayette, Sutton, Davidson, Maple, and Dickson. "Nineteen of the homes were built before 1890, 46 were built between 1890 and 1910, and 39 after 1910." The oldest house in this historic district (Headquarters House), was built in 1853. Architectural styles "range from Greek Revival to ranch style with various Victorian themes (especially Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Italianate), Classical Revival, bungalow, modern workers' cottages, and 20th century period."[67]

Examples of Sutherland's important renovation and adaptive reuse projects for buildings in Fayetteville include Archibald Yell Law Office, Carnall Hall, Headquarters House (Jonas K. Tebbetts House), Sarah Ridge House, Washington County Jail, and Walker-Stone House.

Sutherland oversaw preparing for and moving the Archibald Yell Law Office from Bryan Walker's property to the Headquarters House grounds at 118 East Dickson Street on March 9 and 10, 1992.

WCHS purchased Ridge House, 230 West Center Street, in April

Sutherland at the podium for the dedication of the restored Ridge House. Photo located at Cyrus A. Sutherland Papers, MC 1496, Box 4, Folder 3, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.

1972, which was seriously damaged by fire in December 1973. It is a two-story frame salt box house which enclosed an original structure identified as the residence of M. H. Clark, an early doctor in Fayetteville. Physical evidence indicates that his one-story, dog-trot house with the central dog-trot enclosed to form a central hall, was incorporated into the current Georgian house plan with chimneys flanking the gable ends (east and west elevations). It is believed to be the oldest residential structure in the city still standing.[68] Sutherland was responsible for its reconstruction, renovation, and adaptation for office use. The work was completed in 1979.

In the early 1970s, Sutherland and Frank Sharp led a successful public campaign advocating retention, nomination to the National Register, and adaptive reuse of the Old Post Office on the Fayetteville Square. Built in 1909-1911, it is a Neo-Classical Renaissance Revival building and served as the Fayetteville Post Office until 1963. Though "the building provides a physical symbol of historic continuity to the central business district," it was scheduled for demolition as an Urban Renewal Project in 1972.[69] At one of the many City Council meetings they attended, Sharp recalled that Sutherland let his emotions "get the best of him. Cy is normally so quiet and mild-mannered, but he was all riled up."[70] Conversion of this building for commercial use was a revitalizing factor for downtown Fayetteville.

For the Walker-Stone House, Sutherland served as historical and adaptive reuse consultant for the firm Witsell, Evans, and Rasco of Little Rock and prepared the nomination form to the National Register for it. Judge David Walker built the two-story brick Greek Revival house in 1845. In 1850 he sold it to Stephen Stone whose grandson Edward Durrell Stone purchased the house in the early 1970s and adapted for reuse as offices.[71]

During 1980-1986, Sutherland oversaw the planning and supervised interior cosmetic repairs of the three-story stone Richardsonian Romanesque Washington County Jail, built in 1896-1897 and vacated in 1973.[72]

The early offices of the WCHS were in Walter Lemke's home. In 1967, WCHS acquired Headquarters House (Jonas K. Tebbetts House), a

one-story frame Greek Revival central-hall house. Since the mid-1960s it had been used as a multi-unit apartment building, which meant structural changes—"extra walls had been added, a window had been transformed into a door on the east side, and other modifications were made that had to be undone to restore the house."[73] Sutherland consulted about its restoration and in 1971 he submitted the National Register nomination for it.[74] The project involved some restoration, some adaptive reuse, and some alterations. In 1971, the WCHS offices were relocated from Headquarters House to a refurbished garage on the property. From 1978 to 1984 they were housed in the Historic Washington County Jail, and then returned to Headquarters House in 1984 where it serves as a museum, offices, and bookstore for the Society.[75]

Efforts to restore Carnall Hall began with a letter Sutherland wrote to the UofA administration which initiated the formation of a committee of interested faculty and community leaders.[76] He also suggested it be used as "a hotel and restaurant, kind of like a lab for the Food Services department."[77] It now operates as the Inn at Carnall Hall and the restaurant Ella's Table where students pursuing a degree in hospitality management can obtain practical experience.[78] It provides both educational opportunities and an income source as Missy McSwain, an HPAA board member, observed, "it's such a success story. It's a great opportunity for an overnight stay, and it's been a draw for a lot of people."[79]

Sutherland's other professional service included: a founder of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas[80] and ex-officio member of its Board of Directors (2008); active with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and adviser emeritus to its board (2001); member of the Arkansas State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1971-1997 (the body responsible for approving nominations to the National Register of Historic Places); member of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration Commission, 1974-1994; member of the Arkansas Historical Association, 1968-2008, serving on its board 1981-1984; and lifelong member of the Washington County Historical Society, serving two terms as president.

Comments from Colleagues

Murray Smart: "I came to teach design and history of architecture at the UofA in 1966, fresh out of graduate school. I was assigned to teach with Cy. It was a wonderful pairing. . . . He quickly became a role model for me. Two of his special abilities inspired me immediately—his love of history and his respect for others, especially students. His optimism, charm, and general love of life were infectious."[81]

Frank Sharp: The owner of the Ozark Mountain Smokehouse restaurants and a leader in the fight to save the Old Post Office, said of the Harvard-educated Sutherland, "You know the saying about a Harvard man? They say you can always tell a Harvard man, but you can't tell him much. Well, Cy's not like that at all."[82]

Richard Butler, Jr.: "It was my wonderful pleasure to serve with Cyrus on the State Historic Preservation Review Board and to be his friend. . . . For guidance, both in our meetings and in my life, I keep asking myself 'What would Cyrus do?'"[83]

René Diaz: The chairman of the faculty of the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Kansas, said that during his years as a member of the faculty of the UofA School of Architecture, he appreciated most the cooperative spirit promoted by Cy and other faculty on campus. Diaz often hosted visiting guest speakers who frequently commented on the faculty's collegiality and on the strong roles the faculty played in the community. Members of NAAB accreditation teams often cited this strong characteristic.[84]

Mark Christ: He met Cy in 1990 in his work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program as public information officer. "Cy was serving on the State Review Board, and I learned a lot from him regarding historic buildings and styles in Arkansas. He was a friend and mentor.[85]

J. Mason Toms (AHPP): "Over the course of Sutherland's long career, he amassed an impressive inventory of notable structures around the state. We are still coming across significant historic buildings that Cy had photographed that were otherwise unknown or forgotten."[86]

Paula Marinoni: The founder of the Washington County Historic Preservation Association was impressed by Sutherland's "approachability and genuine love for preservation, combined with his sincerity." She met Sutherland in the initial stages of the fight to save Carnall Hall. "There's no telling how many historical buildings in this area would have been lost without Cy."[87]

Geoff Winningham: In 1980, Sutherland assisted him in a project to photograph historic buildings across the state. "Cy was an inspiring colleague" and delighted in pointing out "classical architectural elements in humble structures."[88]

Jeff Shannon (a former dean of the UofA School of Architecture): "Cy Sutherland is indeed the Father of Historic Preservation in Arkansas."[89]

Sarah M. Spencer: In a letter of appreciation written to Sutherland, she added, "you are a prince among preservationists, if not a king."[90]

Sutherland was called "Arkansas preservation's brightest television star" in describing his role in the documentary *Arkansas: Its Architectural History*."[91]

Anne Speed: A fellow member with Sutherland on the AHPP Arkansas State Review Board, said, "Cy played a leading role in awakening Arkansans to the value of Arkansas architecture as a significant part of our state's history. His perspective and insights contributed so much to our meetings." [92]

Jean Sizemore: Thanking Sutherland in her doctoral dissertation, she wrote, "At the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Professor Cyrus Sutherland at the School of Architecture has been most generous in shar-

ing his vast knowledge of Arkansas vernacular architecture with me and his student's research papers as well."[93]

Donald Harington: Writing to Sutherland about their shared interest in Arkansas architecture history, he was "grateful for his help."[94] Linda Hughes interviewed Harington about "bigeminal architecture," the metaphor he used throughout *The Architecture of the Arkansas Ozarks*.[95] Harington told her he "was trying to make the structure of the chapters similar to the structure of architecture."[96]

Sutherland received numerous awards for his work on historic preservation and the history of Arkansas architecture, including: the Parker Westbrook Award for Distinction in Historic Preservation by the HPAA, 1988; Distinguished Citizen Award by the WCHS, 1995; Historic Preservation and Service Award, Main Street Program, Rogers, 2000; and Lifetime Achievement Award by the Arkansas Historical Association, 2002.

Historic Preservation Philosophy

While Sutherland had "a deep and abiding love of historic sites, he had perhaps an even greater love for buildings themselves, not just for what they are, but for what they mean to the community. It's not enough for Sutherland to save an old building. It's just as important that the useful life of that building—its significance to the community as a functioning site—continues."[97]

Martha Sutherland says, "he really believed in adaptive reuse,". . . "old buildings have to pay their own way."[98]

His understanding of the financial realities of preserving historic sites made him popular with developers because they appreciated Sutherland's practical view toward preservation. "The thing is he doesn't make it hard on [developers] to restore an old building," Rob Merry-Ship has said. "He understands we have to make money, or at least not lose money. "He's just great to deal with."[99]

Sutherland did not suggest saving every historic building, he advocated first identifying "what the important forms are and then set about attempting to honor those forms by being sure to save examples here and there. If they were restored and given an extended or adaptive reuse, it would mean an enormous amount to the economy of that community."[100]

Sutherland's approach recognized the economic and social impact of historic preservation. His work on adapting historic structures to new purposes, cooperation with developers, and efforts to promote public understanding of the benefits of preservation of historical properties have all contributed to cost savings from adaptive use versus demolition, increased revenues from business use, tourism income, and community pride.

As early as 1980, Downtown Fayetteville Unlimited recognized the value historic preservation of buildings like the Old Post Office had made in contributing to the "economic vitality and civic pride" of the Fayetteville Square.[101]

About an exhibit at the Shiloh Museum, "Building Rogers," curator John Burroughs Rogers stated: "The quality of its buildings reflects well on the community . . . by studying well-known, historic buildings, we can begin to understand the city we know today."[102]

In October 2020, Stacy Hurst, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Secretary, announced that historic preservation in Arkansas has been "a significant economic engine leading to "$224 million in private investments over the last decade."[103]

In summary, greater recognition of Cy Sutherland's contributions to the quality of the built environment in Fayetteville and across the state is "well deserved and long overdue."[104]

Author's note: First I wish to thank Martha Sutherland and Celia Sutherland Wirth for encouragement and helpful information, Patsy Watkins who is a wonderful editor, Rachel Patton at Preserve Arkansas, and all of the footnoted architects and others who generously shared their memories with me in emails and telephone calls. These days research is very difficult without assistance from library angels like Robin Roggio and her staff in Interlibrary Loan at the UA Libraries, Amy Lamont and her crew at Fayetteville Public Library, Catherine Wallack (Architectural Records Archivist in UA Special Collections), and Kara Flynn (Research and Educational Services Archivist in UA Special Collections).

Endnotes

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